

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6423

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1373

CINCPAC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 14173

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS SEATO

SUBJECT: SEATO SECGEN'S DENIAL STATMENT RE "NATION" AUGUST 16 ARTICLE

CINCPAC ALSO PASS POLAD

REF: A. BANGKOK 13533

B. BANGKOK 13391

RE PARA 3 REFTEL A. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SEATO SECGEN'S DENIAL
STATEMENT DELIVERED TO "NATION" CONCERNING AUGUST 16 ARTICLE
AS REPORTED REFTEL B:

BEGIN QUOTE. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE SOUTH EAST ASIA
TREATY ORGANIZATION (SEATO) MR. SUNTHORN HONGLADAROM. HAS ISSUED
A DENIAL OF REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM IN YESTERDAY'S "NATION".
HE DID NOT AGREE WITH, NOR DOES HE ENDORSE. ALLEGED PROPOSALS
TO REVIVE THE MILITARY STRENGTH OF SEATO. THE MATTER WAS INDEED
NOT RAISED IN HIS INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH A "NATION"
REPORTER NOR WAS MR. SUNTHORN INVOLVED IN THE ALLEGED
THAI-PHILIPPINE TALKS ABOUT SEATO. HE CATEGORICALLY DENIES
HAVING SAID, AS QUOTED, I DON'T WITH LOWERING THE PROFILE
OF SEATO.

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IN THE CONTEXT OF A DISCUSSION ON THE BUILD-UP OF A SOVIET
NAVAL PRESENCE AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN
AREA, HE TOLD THE "NATION" REPORTER THAT THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE
POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND SHOULD BE OF CONCERN TO THAILAND.
BUT, AS HE IS CORRECTLY QUOTED, HE DOES 'NOT EXPECT ANOTHER
RESHUFFLE OF THE ORGANIZATION SINCE IT WAS ONLY
CHANGED RECENTLY, END QUOTE.

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